

**MINUTES OF THE
VAN WERT CITY COUNCIL**
July 22, 2024

Council President Thad Eikenbary called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Judy Bowers gave the invocation.

On call of the roll: Ringwald, Kallas, Bowers, Agler, Dettrow, and Marshall were present.

Moore expected to arrive mid-meeting.

Bowers made a motion to amend the consent agenda to add verbiage to ordinance -037 & -038 stating "prepared as an emergency" as requested in preparation stage. Dettrow seconded; all concurred.

Bowers made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Agler seconded; all concurred.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

MAYOR: The mayor spoke in the Safety Service Director's absence.

There is a proposed no parking ordinance in the very southern part of S. Tyler Street where it dead ends south of Cavett Street. Previous residents were not parking on both sides of the streets, but most recently, they have. This poses difficulty accessing the end of this road for recycling, trash, and brush pick up and potentially emergency vehicles. The proposed ordinance would be no parking from the North end of Property 802 and south through the dead end on the East side of the street only. The mayor offered streets & alleys assess this before requesting preparation of an ordinance.

In summer of 2021, council took money brought in from COVID and joined with previous funds to tear down the old Days Inn to make it in to developmental land. At the time of the decision, the city had hoped it would have a return investment from removing the abandoned building, but was not going to assume they would gain money back. They did receive money back and have been holding the funds along with a 60 foot right of way at the south end of what used to be the old Days Inn Property so that "some day" a street could connect Washington Street to North Franklin Street. These funds could cover the first 1,000 feet of the new street. This was originally an idea that was thought to come to fruition in the summer of '25, but First Federal bought this land to build a new branch, so this street development project is being suggested to be started sooner. There is a study of the North Washington/Brooks Ave./Market St. area, and possibly during the '26 fiscal year may be addressing intersections in this area. There are a few ideas developing to resolve congestion issues. The mayor is suggesting an ordinance be prepared to allow the safety service director to advertise, bid, and award contracts for this 1,000 foot extension of the street as an emergency.

Van Wert Area Economic Development Corporation Board is made up of 9 members; two of the members are appointed by city council. This can be a council member or a member of the public, there aren't really restrictions to the person voted in. Bill Marshall and Mark Schumm currently sit on the board in those two positions. Schumm has announced his resignation mid-term (3 year term) due to taking another job; his term runs through June 30, 2025. Schumm plans to sit through the August meeting and potentially the September meeting until council finds a person to fill his seat. Meetings are the 3rd Monday of each month at 5:00 pm.

SAFETY SERVICE DIRECTOR: Not present.

AUDITOR: The auditor shared that the state audit has concluded. No report has been produced as of yet. The auditor needs a list of supplementals and tax budget both passed tonight as an emergency. These were prepared by the Law Director per the last meeting.

Fraud prevention training is required by every city employee and it will be audited in next years audit. This is a reminder for those who haven't completed it.

LAW DIRECTOR: Mr. Hatcher made a point of clarification on ordinance -038 in the body of the ordinance; this ordinance is strictly for persons under the age of 21.

A request to the law director to research complaints submitted on fireworks over the July 4th holiday; the law director is going to be doing this research with the police department to see how many calls were received and how many citations were issued and bring results to the next meeting.

Joe Jared, 113 W. Main, stated his research about the Washington St. to N. Franklin St. stretch is approximately 3,150 feet.

COMMENTS, COMMUNICATIONS & PETITIONS:

Mark Davis, 402 S. Tyler, addresses council about the ordinance passed on cottage homes (24-06-035). He expresses concerns on the smaller square footage homes being on larger pieces of land. The mayor clarifies the ordinance addresses conditional use, not open use. The zoning board will still approve of all additions; any questions about what will be approved should be directed to them.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCE: Mrs. Ringwald made a motion to introduce Ordinance Number: 24-07-042. Bowers seconded; all concurred.

Ringwald made a motion to suspend statutory rules. Agler seconded; all concurred.

Ringwald made a motion to pass on it's first and final reading, Ordinance Number: 24-07-042; AN ORDINANCE TO MAKE SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS TO FUNDS 101, 208, 601, 602, and 701, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. Agler seconded; all concurred. Ordinance passed.

Ringwald made a motion to introduce Ordinance Number: 24-07-043. Agler seconded; all concurred.

Ringwald made a motion to suspend statutory rules. Bowers seconded; all concurred.

Ringwald made a motion to pass on it's first and final reading, Ordinance Number: 24-07-043; AN ORDINANCE ACCEPTING THE AMOUNTS AND RATES AS DETERMINED BY THE BUDGET COMMISSION AND AUTHORIZING THE NECESSARY TAX LEVIES AND CERTIFYING THEM TO THE COUNTY AUDITOR; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. Agler seconded; all concurred. Ordinance passed.

Ringwald asked the law director to clarify what a community reinvestment area agreement is. Hatcher states this is a form of tax abatement used as an incentive for reasons such as, companies coming into town to create jobs or substantial construction project/renovations/additions. It is a property tax abatement within the city for a certain period of time.

Ringwald made a motion to introduce Ordinance Number: 24-07-044. Agler seconded; all concurred.

Ringwald made a motion to suspend statutory rules. Agler seconded; all concurred.

Ringwald made a motion to pass on it's first and final reading, Ordinance Number: 24-07-044; AN ORDINANCE APPROVING THE COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT AREA AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF VAN WERT AND G&T HOLDINGS(GREAT PLAINS POULTRY MELHORN TRUCKING) AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. Agler seconded; all concurred. Ordinance passed.

STREETS AND ALLEYS: After verifying there was no opposition to it among council, Kallas made a motion to prepare an ordinance that would place no parking on S. Tyler's east side of the street, south of Cavett. Agler seconded; all concurred.

Kallas made a motion to prepare an ordinance that would allow the safety service director to advertise, bid and award contracts for the extension of Bonnewitz for 1,000 feet toward N. Franklin St. Bowers seconded; all concurred.

JUDICIARY AND ANNEXATION: Bowers made a motion to pass on it's third and final reading, Ordinance Number: 24-06-037; AN ORDINANCE BANNING THE PURCHASE, POSSESSION, TRANSPORTATION OR USE OF CANNABIS BY PERSONS UNDER THE AGE OF TWENTY-ONE YEARS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. Kallas seconded; all concurred. Ordinance passed.

Bowers made a motion to pass on it's third and final reading, Ordinance Number: 24-06-038; AN ORDINANCE BANNING THE PURCHASE, POSSESSING, OR CONSUMING TOBACCO PRODUCTS INCLUDING ALTERNATIVE NICOTINE PRODUCTS, ELECTRONIC SMOKING DEVICES AND CORRESPONDING VAPOR PRODUCTS IN THE CITY OF VAN WERT AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. Kallas seconded; all concurred. Ordinance passed.

PROPERTIES AND EQUIPMENT: No report.

PARKS AND RECREATION: No report.

HEALTH, SERVICE AND SAFETY: Not present.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: Marshall encourages anyone with interest in filling the economic development board position to come forward. Eikenbary asks if there is any current interest. Dettrow asks what responsibilities entail for this position. The mayor answers that the main duty is hiring the director, help provide direction, and attending meetings.

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS FROM COUNCIL and PUBLIC: Mark Davis, 402 S. Tyler, asks why only the east side of S. Tyler is being made into no parking. He expressed concerns of residents backing out of driveways and hitting cars across the street. The mayor said it was strictly the request of the related resident.

Joe Jared, 113 W. Main, requested copies of the two ordinances just passed related to the underage tobacco and marijuana usage. The law director will be providing those after the meeting.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: A few more people are interested in helping the group of the public interested in the pool.

NEW BUSINESS: None

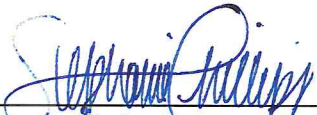
RESOLUTIONS & ORDINANCES:

Second Reading Advisory for ORDINANCE Number: 24-06-036; AN ORDINANCE TO CHANGE THE CITY OF VAN WERT'S PROCESS FOR PUBLIC NOTIFICATION. All concurred.

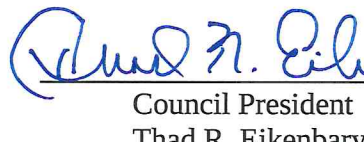
Second Reading Advisory for ORDINANCE Number: 24-07-041; AN ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE THE SAFETY-SERVICE DIRECTOR TO NEGOTIATE AND SIGN CONTRACTS WITH AMERICAN TOWER CORPORATIN FOR THE PURPOSE OF RENEWING OUR CELL TOWER LEASES. All concurred.

Bowers made a motion to excuse Moore from tonights meeting. Agler seconded. All concurred.

Agler made a motion to adjourn at 7:17 p.m. Bowers seconded; all concurred.



Clerk of Council
Stephanie R. Phillips



Council President
Thad R. Eikenbary

August 12, 2024
DATE